

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02220 020107Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 W

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R 011216Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1208

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FOR AMB. PALMER AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMENTS

1. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT STATEMENTS ARE SUBMITTED FOR AMB. PALMER'S REVIEW. UPON RECEIPT OF CHANGES AND APPROVAL, EMBASSY WILL PREPARE AND CABLE FRENCH TRANSLATION.

2. CONTINGENCY ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

SINCE PRESIDENT FORD NAMED ME AMBASSADOR TO TOGO IN AUGUST, I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO MY ASSIGNMENT WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION. I HAVE TRIED TO EXTEND MY KNOWLEDGE OF TOGO BY READING AND BY TALKING WITH MANY PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD OF THE WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS OF THE TOGOLESE PEOPLE AND ABOUT THEIR COMMITMENT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT GNASSINGBE EYADEMA, TO INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE AND TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TOGO.

BUT NO ABSTRACT KNOWLEDGE CAN COMPARE WITH KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM EXPERIENCE. AND SO I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN TOGO WHERE I CAN LEARN OF YOUR COUNTRY FIRSTHAND AND BEGIN THE MISSION PRESIDENT FORD HAS ENTRUSTED TO ME--CONTINUING AND EXPANDING THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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3. PROPOSED STATEMENT TO PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION FOLLOWING

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS:

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE AND HONOR FOR ME TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC, GENERAL OF THE ARMY GNASSINGBE EYADEMA. I HAVE PRESENTED TO HIM MY CREDENTIALS AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO TOGO, AND I HAVE CONVEYED TO HIM HIGHEST REGARDS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT GREATLY APPRECIATES PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S ENLIGHTENED AND UNTIRING EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND HIS COMMITMENT TO THE PROCESS OF DIALOGUE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. AMERICA SUPPORTS THESE EFFORTS AND SHARES THIS COMMITMENT.

I FIND IT ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING TO BE ENTERING UPON MY DUTIES AS AMBASSADOR AT THIS EXCITING TIME IN AFRICA'S HISTORY, A TIME WHEN MY OWN COUNTRY IS INCREASINGLY AWARE OF AFRICA'S PROBLEMS AND NEEDS, AND OF ITS LIMITLESS FUTURE.

THERE HAS BEEN GREAT INJUSTICE ON THIS CONTINENT, AND CONSEQUENT TURMOIL. THERE ARE MANY WOUNDS. MY COUNTRY IS DEDICATED TO THE HEALING OF THOSE WOUNDS, AND WE WILL HELP IN EVERY WAY WE CAN TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUSTICE AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: PRAISE OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP IS ACCEPTED AND EXPECTED HERE. MEASURED ACQUIESCENCE TO THIS LOCAL CEREMONIAL CAN BE USEFUL TO AMBASSADOR IN EASING HIS INITIAL CONTACTS.

5. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
YOUNG

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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